

Message Text

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ACTION COME-00

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00

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SUBJ: NON-TARIFF MEASURES TO CONTROL IMPORTS INTO BANGLADESH

REF: STATE 171410

1. THE FOLLOWING IN RESPONSE TO REFTEL IS A SUMMARY OF THE NON-TARIFF MEASURES TO CONTROL IMPORTS INTO BANGLADESH.

2. STATE TRADING AND GOVERNMENT MONOPOLY PRACTICES. THE STATE TRADING AGENCY IS THE TRADING CORPORATION OF BANGLADESH (TCB). TCB IS A MONOPOLY ONLY IN THE IMPORTATION OF ARMS AND AMMUNITION (NONMILITARY). TCB DOES IMPORT SOME THIRTEEN ITEMS ON A NONMONOPOLY BASIS UNDER CURRENT IMPORT POLICIES. THESE IMPORTATIONS ARE REGARDED AS SUPPLEMENTARY TO THOSE BY PRIVATE SECTOR TRADERS AND ARE INTENDED TO ASSURE THE SUPPLY OF THOSE GOODS. THE BDG'S FOOD MINISTRY, WHILE TECHNICALLY NOT A TRADING AGENCY, DOES ENJOY A COMPLETE MONOPOLY OVER THE IMPORT OF FOODGRAINS AND SHARES WITH OTHER BDG AGENCIES IN THE IMPORT EDIBLE OILS. THE NATIONALIZED SECTOR OF THE ECONOMY IS LARGE AND IN MANY ITEMS A MONOPOLY (E.G., JUTE GOOD AND UREA). MANY OF THESE SECTORS HAVE IMPORT REQUIRE-

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MENTS RESTRICTED TO THOSE INDUSTRIES. THIS LEADS THE GOVERNMENT

THROUGH THESE FIRMS TO BE A MONOPOLY IMPORTER IN THESE SECTORS.
WE KNOW OF NO CASES OF DISCRIMINATION AGAINST U.S. GOODS BY THESE
AGENCIES.

3. QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS. BANGLADESH HAS NO EXPLICIT
QUANTITATIVE RESTRICTIONS ON IMPORTS. THE AVAILABILITY OF FOREIGN
EXCHANGE, FOREIGN AID, INTERNATIONAL LOANS, AND BARTER ARRANGEMENTS
ALL INFLUENCE IMPORT LEVELS. THE ONLY IMPORT QUOTAS ARE THOSE
CREATED BY THE LIMITATIONS SET FORTH IN BARTER ARRANGEMENTS. THE
ONLY GENERAL EMBARGOS SET BY THE BDG ARE AGAINST SPECIFIC NATIONS,
E.G., SOUTH AFRICA, RHODESIA, AND ISRAEL FOR POLITICAL REASONS.
THE BDG PUBLISHES AS PART OF ITS SEMI-ANNUAL IMPORT POLICY A LIST
OF COMMODITIES ELIGIBLE FOR IMPORTATION DURING THE 6-MONTH PERIOD
CONCERNED. ITEMS OUTSIDE OF THIS LIST ARE PROHIBITED FOR IM-
PORTATION. GOVERNMENT PERMISSION TO IMPORT CAN BE OBTAINED
BASED ON THE MERITS OF THE CASE. IN ADDITION, SOME GOODS ENTER
BANGLADESH UNDER THE WAGE-EARNER'S SCHEME (75 DACCA A-23).

4. IMPORT LICENSING SYSTEM. IN ORDER TO CONSERVE FOREIGN EXCHANGE,
THE BANGLADESH GOVERNMENT CONTROLS IMPORTS AND EXPORTS
DIRECT THE SYSTEM UTILIZING A SEMI-ANNUAL IMPORT POLICY, RE-
GULARLY ISSUED FOR JANUARY-JUNE AND JULY-DECEMBER PERIODS.
ALL IMPORTERS MUST REGISTER WITH CHIEF CONTROLLER AND OB-
TAIN THE ISSUED LICENSES FOR COMMODITIES WHICH THEY WISH TO
IMPORT. PERSONS, GROUPS OF PERSONS, FIRMS, INSTITUTIONS, AND
OTHER ORGANIZATIONS MUST REGISTER WITH THE GOVERNMENT UNDER TERMS
SET DOWN BY THE REGISTRATION (IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS) ORDER,
1952. IMPORTERS MUST BE CITIZENS OR ENTITLED OF BANGLADESH.

5. BANGLADESH'S PRESENT STATUTORY BASIS FOR NONTARIFF MEASURES
TO CONTROL IMPORTS COMPRISES THE IMPORTS AND EXPORTS (CONTROL)
ACT, 1950; REGISTRATION (IMPORTERS AND EXPORTERS) ORDER, 1952; AND
IMPORT POLICY, JULY, DECEMBER, 1976. THE EARLIER ACTS ARE ALL IN
EFFECT, AS AMENDED.

6. FROM THE ABOVE IT SHOULD BE CLEAR THAT IMPORT LICENSES ARE
THE BDG'S CHIEF NONTARIFF MEASURE FOR IMPORTS. NONE OF THE BDG'S
EFFORTS IS SPECIFICALLY DIRECTED AGAINST THE UNITED STATES.
BOSTER

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